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Media Advisory

**For Immediate Release:
December 5, 2004**

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STATE SPONSORS PUBLIC FORUM ON MOUNT HOLYOKE RANGE STATE PARK FORESTRY PROJECT

Amherst - The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is inviting the public to participate in a forestry educational forum concerning a recent forest management project in the Mount Holyoke Range State Park in Northampton. The program will be offered on Thursday, December 9th from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the state park's Notch Visitor Center. The forum is designed to present information on the project, hear diverging points of views, and address the public's questions and concerns.

The forestry educational forum is a result of a 63-acre forest management project in the 4,000-acre state park that was planned last winter and is presently under contract. A number of concerned citizens have expressed a desire for information about the project and the need for public discussion and coordination.

The forest management project at the park was designed to: address water quality issues by improving road locations and soil erosion, increase the size of the trailhead parking area, improve the long-term health of the forest by maintaining the oldest, largest most valuable white pine trees, remove low quality high risk to insects trees, provide for white pine regeneration, and serve as an educational opportunity. DCR officials have already met and worked with members of the New England Mountain Bike Association and other concerned citizens to protect the trail system and incorporate aesthetic considerations into the project.

"The greatest value of the Mount Holyoke Range forest management project may be to serve as an educational opportunity on how to better work with the public on public lands issues, as an example of multiple-use and sustainable forest management, and as a reminder to the public of our social responsibility concerning conservation, wood products consumption, and sustaining our forests," said DCR Chief Forester Jim DiMaio.

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